GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2944
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2005
ARMY OPERATIONS AGAINST MILITANTS IN MANIPUR
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army has stepped up its operations in the militants stronghold districts in Manipur as reported in the Times of India dated June 23, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of militants killed/injured and arrested in these operations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that innocent persons in the State do not become victims in the cross fire?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): Troops of Indian Army were inducted into the Southern districts of Churachandpur and Bishenpur in Manipur in October 2004. In addition, operations have also been conducted to clear National Highways 53 and 150 to facilitate opening and repair of these roads. A total of 83 terrorists were killed and 395 apprehended in Manipur during these operations from October 2004 to July 2005.

(c) Strict instructions have been issued to the troops to conduct operations in such a way so as to avoid civilian casualties or any collateral damage.